



Rocky Mountain Conservancy

November 13, 2019

Senator Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

I appreciate your support for the "Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act," and hope that your fellow members of Congress will follow suit in supporting your legislation that would allow the National Park Service to accept a 40-acre land donation.

This parcel of land was donated to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy in December, 2018, with the intent for us to convey it to the National Park Service for the American people, by Bar D Ranch, LLC, property of famed astronaut and notable Coloradan, Vance Brand, and his family. This land is entirely undeveloped, so it will not increase the deferred maintenance of the National Park Service in any way. It will only further enhance our nation's beloved national park at no cost to our country.

I am honored to have gotten to know Vance Brand and his family during the past two years, and I'm pleased that he has chosen to serve his country once again by donating this bit of pristine forest so that it can be accessed by all as part of our treasured public lands. The land is beautifully forested with aspen and pine, and threaded with quiet, meandering creeks. This parcel, bordered by the national park on multiple boundaries, is important for the safe corridors and habitats it ensures for the park's wildlife, while also preserving the impeccable viewshed surrounding Rocky Mountain National Park, the third-most-visited national park in America, which receives more than 4.5 million visitors annually.

On a personal note, I was fortunate last summer to take my elementary school-aged daughter to the summit of the nearby and very remarkable "Estes Cone" feature in Rocky. I'm excited that this land donation, further protecting the park from urban encroachment, will ensure that the ecological integrity of this special area of the park will remain intact so that future generations will be able to share the same awe-inspiring experience that I had with my child and husband on the summit, along with other families as well.

Thank you for your support for this boundary adjustment for Rocky Mountain National Park. It's an example of wonderful foresight that future generations will appreciate long after we are gone, when the land remains protected for the benefit of all.

With great appreciation,

Estee Rivera Murdock
Executive Director

Nature. Pass it on.